

Region 3 South 1624 Meeting  
July 5, 2011

Present: Vancouver (8 foster parents and 3 staff), Stevenson (4 foster parents/staff), Kelso (3 foster parents, 1 staff), Centralia (1 staff), Tumwater (3 staff), Aberdeen (1 foster parent), Tom Stokes representing Region 3.

TOPIC	SPEAKERS	CONTENT	DISCUSSION/ TASKS/ASSIGNMENTS
Updates: 1624	Marci Miess	For the purposes of 1624 the regions will remain separate though the northern part of former-Region-6 may become part of new Region 3 North.	Marci and Amy will communicate with the former-Region-5 reps for input on changing the territory. They will forward their recommendations to Nancy Sutton. UPDATE DUE: Sept 20, 2011
Updates: DLR	Diana Chesterfield	DLR will remain 6 functional regions with no changes in staffing beyond the addition of Myra Casey as Deputy RA.	
Updates: DCFS	Peggy DeVoy	DCFS has consolidated the former regions 5 and 6 into one region. Staff and functions will be consolidated where appropriate, staffing in some program areas may change.	
Two meetings will be held in Region 3 for DLR to discuss the Unified Homestudy and recruitment/retention with foster parents.	Peggy DeVoy		Foster parents will be notified through DLR and Fostering Connections. Peggy will publish dates of the meetings to e-mailing list.

Update on Statewide 1624 meeting	Amy Gardner/Marci Miess	<p>Rules/Regulations of 1624 Social Networking Issue</p> <p>Issues presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>~ Youth aging out of guardianships</li> <li>~ DLR investigations</li> <li>~ Staff morale</li> <li>~ SSPS numbers (provider numbers) differing from FamLink ID numbers</li> <li>~ Foster parents transporting children not placed with them being required to complete volunteer packets</li> <li>~ Procedure for notifying DCFS and LE when a child goes on-the-run</li> <li>~ Communication between staff and caregivers</li> <li>~ Budget impact on foster parents; foster care reimbursements</li> <li>~ Regional rate assessment procedural concerns</li> </ul>	<p>Marci and Amy will update the regional 1624 group after the Statewide meeting and provide additional information as it becomes available.</p>
ISSUE: Delays in licensing process requiring duplication	Marci Miess reporting for caregiver; additional	Delays in licensing process are requiring applicants to	Diana Chesterfield: Invites applicants to contact the DLR

in documentation.	reporting from other caregivers	redo forms, background checks etc.	supervisors or her directly for assistance.
ISSUE: Staff use of social networking sites; posting confidential information or foster parent or case-specific information on Facebook.	Marci Miess reporting for caregiver	A DCFS staff member posted information about a case/foster parent on Facebook; this was an isolated incident and addressed by DCFS management when it was brought to their attention.	FPAWS is working on legislation that will cover social networking sites for all people working with youth in out-of-home care.
ISSUE: Communication issues when more than one office is involved in a placement case are negatively impacting foster parents.	Marci Miess reporting for caregiver; Kelso and Aberdeen foster parents added to this concern	“Triangulation” when more than one SW is assigned to a placement care (courtesy supervision etc.) Foster parents are reporting getting conflicting instructions and reports from separate SWs.	<p>This seems more like an internal DCFS issue than a liaison issue but liaisons are being asked to deal with it and assist foster parents. Critical issues are often involved (visitations etc.)</p> <p>Diana Chesterfield and Bill Paresa ask to be notified when issues like this occur. Peggy will take this to Nancy Sutton too.</p> <p>Peggy will report back at Sept meeting.</p>
ISSUE: Confidentiality issues affecting staff and foster parents.	Marci Miess reporting for caregiver	Concerns reported that DCFS/DLR staff have inappropriately shared information about cases or foster parents with other foster parents, community members	
Vancouver Office’s Issue:	Kim Glover	1. What does “regular income” mean when a	There is a document that can be provided (Interpretation

		<p>foster parent is being licensed or relicensed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If adoption support will not be considered income, will the child receiving adoption support be counted in the “household?”</li> </ul>	<p>of Income WAC ~Sept. 09). Foster care payments and adoption support is NOT going to be considered income. All other income will be considered; DLR wants to have flexibility. Waivers can be considered in exceptional circumstances. This issue can be taken forward to the Statewide meeting for clarification.</p> <p>Peggy will clarify with DLR: “If the adoption support payments for a child are not counted in the household’s income for licensing purposes, why is that child counted as part of the “household”? She will report back at Sept meeting.</p>
	Kim Lawrence	<p>2. Lack of information getting to caregivers about court dates etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could this notification be added to the required questions at the H&amp;S home visits or can a website be developed?</li> <li>• Can caregivers have access to the court’s docket?</li> <li>• Foster parents state</li> </ul>	<p>Notification of the caregivers by receipt of court docket should not take the place of communication with social workers. The Vancouver office is working to improve this process in their office. Caregiver report forms are being distributed to foster parents in Clark County in various ways. Bill Paresa reports that many return-receipts from ISSPs</p>

		<p>they are rarely provided with the ISSP or caregiver's report in a timely manner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Getting notification will increase participation by caregivers in court hearings and with providing timely Caretaker's Reports to the Court. This is seen as a benefit to children in out of home placements.</li> </ul>	<p>sent to foster parents by certified mail are coming back as foster parents are not picking them up. The ISSPs and caregivers reports are required by legislation to be sent by certified mail. An issue of attitude regarding some social workers not including foster parents as part of the "team" was discussed. Administration in Clark County is addressing this.</p> <p>Is there some kind of secure website that could have this information and make it accessible to all the parties? Bill Paresa and Peggy DeVoy will do some research on this and report back during the Sept meeting.</p>
Stevenson	Lori Thornburg; Bill Townsend (Foster parents in Stevenson)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lack of access to DLR licenser for home inspection and confusion around the need for relatives to be licensed (financial support for children.)</li> <li>2. A question about whether age is an issue in licensure related to a specific case.</li> </ol>	<p>Diana Chesterfield: "Age is not a factor in and of itself." She will look into the holdup.</p> <p>Kim Glover: As liaison, she will look into this and contact the caregiver today.</p> <p><b>Update: The Liaison has spoken to the DLR Licenser. The DLR licenser assigned to the Townsend case has been in regular contact with the</b></p>

			family. They are both working to rectify this specific issue for this family.
Kelso	No issues reported at this time.		
Centralia	No issues reported at this time.		
Aberdeen	Shelly Robinette	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Notification of foster parents of court hearings.</li> <li>2. Delays in licensing that are resulting in foster parents having to duplicate efforts or documentation (water tests, background checks).</li> </ol>	
<b>VOTING FOR ISSUES TO BE TAKEN FORWARD FROM THE REGION TO STATEWIDE 1624 MEETING:</b>		<b>ISSUES TO TAKE FORWARD FROM R3 South (former R6):</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Income issue related to licensing and relicensing foster parents.</li> <li>2) Delay of licensure causing hardship to applicants.</li> </ol>	
Next regional 1624 Meeting:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The next <b>statewide</b> meetings are July 18<sup>th</sup>; October 17<sup>th</sup> (tentative)</li> <li>• Next <b>Region 3 South</b> will be September 20<sup>th</sup> (Vancouver)</li> </ul>		Peggy will remind office 1624 Leads and other staff in advance of the Region 3 South meeting times, dates and call in numbers. 1624 Leads will forward meeting reminders to their

			contacts lists of caregivers and staff.
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